



A Brieſe
NARRATION
OF THE
Carriage and Succeſſe
OF THE
ENGLISH AFFAIRES,
in the hands of the
COMMISSIONERS
FOR
SCOTLAND.

SIR,

VHereas the love and wiſedome of *Parliament*, foreſaw that the Malignant humors of this Church and Kingdome, were very unlikely if not impoſſible to be removed without ſome *Northern* Phyſick and their reſolution, and neceſſity had wrought through thoſe manifold difficulties

ficulities and oppositions which were continually made
 to the calling in their assistance; You remember they
 appointed Commissioners, Lords, and Commons, fur-
 nished with Instructions, to the better expediting so
 weighty an affaire, and joyned two Ministers of good
 worth and ability to be assistant to them in any thing
 that might concerne the Ecclesiasticall part of the
 Negotiation; who undertooke their journey from
London, *July 20.* and lay at *Graves-end* to 22. From
 thence came to *Tarmouth*, where they were stop'd two
 or three dayes by contrary winds, but were by Gods
 providence released, *August 1.* and arrived at *Leith*,
August 7. Where they were nobly and courteously re-
 ceived by the Earle of *Lindsey*, and Sir *Archibald John-*
ston, who conveyed them from thence to *Edenburgh*
 that night, where they received all respect due to their
 persons; and employment; But a little time served
 for complement, when a businesse of no lesse conse-
 quence then the preservation of Religion and li-
 berty in three Kingdomes was to bee propoun-
 ded; They made therefore speedy addreses to the
 Assembly and convention of Estates, who respec-
 tively appointed Committees to treat with them
 of what they had in command from the *Parliament*
 of *England*; Our Commissioners according to their
 Instructions pressed upon them a firme Union and
 speedy assistance, a good lesson taught us by ill masters,
 the Papists and Prelates, who are incorporate to the
 danger of Protestant Religion and Civill Liberty: And
 though they omitted no time, yet when by Mr *Robert*
McLachlan a faithfull Agent, they received the sad letters
 from *England* of the surrender of *Bristol*, with the cau-
 ses.

les and consequents, they thought fit to adde double
 diligence, and accordingly with more earnestnesse they
 applyed themselves. The Assembly and Convention,
 equally sympathizing that condition, thought the best
 meanes for the accomplishing and expediting this uni-
 on and assistance, to be a solemne mutuall Covenant
 into which both Nations should enter; and therefore
 offered that one might be drawne by the mutuall appro-
 bation of the English Commissioners, and the Scottish
 Committees, which was accordingly done *August. 14.*
 Which though at first it seemed a hard morsell, yet it
 pleased God to frame the spirits of them that were
 employed, to that Christian condescension and selfe-
 deniall, (which God usually makes the foundation of
 every great work) that those rubs were quickly removed
 and the forme agreed on that night, which ought not
 to be attributed to any slightnesse or suddennesse in a
 matter of so great concernment; but to their diligence
 and apprehension of the present necessity of the busi-
 nesse. And let none wonder that this way of Christian
 Association was pitched upon, which though at the
 first view it speaks delay, yet it really meanes expedi-
 tion; in that that prudent Nation hath experience, that
 they shall be able, upon a mutuall consent thereto, to
 doe more in a week toward the accomplishment of
 our desires, then in a month without it, as their expe-
 rience in their late troubles made apparent; where
 God did miraculously blesse that Nation in this way.
 And further, it cannot be thought unfit that so religi-
 ops a work should have a religious foundation, nor
 unreasonable, that when the thing to be undertaken is
 so full of difficulty and hazard, the undertakers should

bee obliged in the most strict and inviolable bands, especially in this revolting and backsliding age: and our advantage, and the advantage of the Cause cannot be small, thereby considering that after this mutuall obligation, we have not only an assurance of a present auxiliary, but at all times of whatsoever the power and prudence of that Nation can contribute to the maintenance of Religion and Liberry. The Covenant being upon these or the like grounds agreed to, it was propounded to the Assembly by the Reverend Mr *Alexander Henderson* the Moderator, who carried the business of that day with singular discretion and affection, and after a little demurre cast in by the Kings Commissioner, (which gave occasion to the mention, and so to the deniall, of a negative voice to his Majesty in that Assembly,) the Noblemen and Ministers were required to give their resolutions concerning it: and here I must beg excuse, neither mine nor any pen is able to reach that abundant alacrity and Christian affection wherewith their severall voses were delivered for the affirmative, without any contradiction but what was mentioned. And though the thing it selfe, *scil.* the passing such a Covenant, be of moment, yet I confesse the circumstances of it wrought more upon me, even those impressions which I hope were made by the same spirit that guided them; so that I should not doubt to say, the speciall hand of God was in the business: and unlesse we be wanting to our selves, I hope we may reap in joy what they sowed in teares, and that the work of that day, though it may and must, as every great work in which God delights to be most seen, receive severall checks & interruptions, wil not be quashed,

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will reach *Spaine* and *Rome* it selfe in due time. And as I am certainly informed, by (a person whom, for honour sake, in regard of his faithfull industry in the cause of God I mention) Sir *Archibald Johnston*, at the Convention of Estates It received the like unanimous and affectionate approbation that same might, who likewise backed it with the draught of a Proclamation to put the whole Kingdome in a posture of defence, and commanding them to provide themselves of Armes, and to be ready at the time and place appointed them. And thus this memorable 17 of *August* ended; on the 18. it was dispatched by a Messenger, to whom the Commissioners gave credite for *England*, and was brought hither, *Aug.* 25. and presented to the *Parliament*, *August* 26. And thus is your own businesse brought to your own doores, where I hope it will not long lie, though I cannot doubt but it will meet with manifold opposition in regard that the Popish and Prelaticall faction, and men that are so deeply affraid of the Word of God and a Government according to it, know that though they may cheaply contemne English Votes and Vowes, which they see many among us who yet challenge titles of honour, can dispencc with; yet a Scottish Covenant carries strength and resolution with it, and hath already proved fataill to the Hierarchy. For my own part I will not dissemble my apprehensions in this businesse, and they are these, That though wee are extreame unhappy, that our Nation should have so much corruption as that by its naturall strength it could not work it out, and that so many among us should bee so industrious in making a grave for their own Religion and Liberty, which yet may prove their own, and this their Epitaph:

*Hic jacent & jaceant sine spe resurgendi Libertas, tam
Christiana, quam Civilis.*

Yet we are happy that we have met with friends, who so cordially resent our dangers and miseries, and may bee so fit a counterpoise to the *French, Spanyards, wallons, Gebell, Ammon* and *Amalek*, that are received amongst us, and confederate against us. Let not any mans thoughts murmur when I say Cordiall resentment, I confesse, and doe this publike penance, that I went with a prejudice, and expected the fullfilling of my apprehensions as much as my desires, but finde my selfe happily deceived; for though They do as every wise man will, take in their own interest, and after conscience hath had its due and supreamework, make use of their best prudence for the compassing lawfull ends; yet I am perswaded that God and Religion and true brotherly affection to this Nation, have the upper hand in their thoughts and undertakings for this businesse: And God hath seemed to frame them as those fit instruments which shall begin to execute the vengeance of the Lord, and the vengeance of his Temple. And let no man prejudice himselfe or them, and say, instead of helpers we shall have Masters, and they will have too strong an influence into our Religion and Liberty. When as it will be found in that offered Covenant, that they intend not the least confusion betwixt the Kingdomes and Churches, though the neereft conjunction, but to maintain the respective liberties and priviledges of both Nations, and presse nothing but what our selves have propounded, The word of God as
the

the rule of our and their reformation. And here I can not omit a passage full of meeknesse and wisdom that fell from a considerable man among them for piety and Learning, Let *Scotland* help to reform *England*, and *England*, *Scotland*. God hath edged the spirits of the Scottish Nation more against Popery, Prelacie and Superstition, then the English, let us help to rid you of them, and mutually receive from you that assistance which may be requisite to advancing the purity and power of godlinesse among us both.

It need not be doubted but if we forsake not our own mercy God hath stretched out a hand to us to draw us out of the mire both of corruption & confusion in which we are, let every one therefore in his place study to promote this promising union, w^{ch} it is hoped may in time be an example and encouragement to other Protestant Churches to joyne them thereto, to the enlargement and establishment of the Kingdome of Christ, and the disappointment and destruction of his and our Enemies. God hath begun by them, *Hee is our Rock, and his way is perfect*. If therefore any proposition bee made to you concerning money for the levying and conducting these Forces, let us not keep it to perish with us. I beleeve the desire will bee modest, and enforced by that necessitie which we have been constrained to bring upon them by the expence they have bin put to in the maintenance of the *Irish* Army to which we are so deeply ingaged. I hope I may safely say, they seek not yours, but you and their own. Since therefore they that are reasonably well skilled in computation of our English affairs, judge it impossible, without a Miracle, to accomplish a Reformation, scarcely a preservation without

out them; let us all strive with earnestnesse and expedition to promote this present hopefull service, lest hereafter upon the return of our calamitie, which in this sea of misery that overspreads us, is like againe to flow upon us, it be said of us, Wee had a Price in our hands. And so I beseech God who hath hitherto appeared in this businesse, to goe on to order and expedite it to the glory of his Name, the establishment, reformation and propagation of true Religion, the preservation and improvement of liberty, that we may live a quiet and a peaceable life, in all godlinesse and honesty.

FINIS.

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